

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet(s) of drawing(s) includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet(s) - one sheet - Figs. 1 & 2
 [Annotated Sheet(s) showing changes - one sheet - Figs. 1 & 2]

REMARKS

The abstract has been amended as requested. The specification has also been amended to comply with Rule 77 and to correct a typographical error. Enclosed are corrections in red to Figs. 1 and 2 to indicate they relate to the prior art and replacement drawings incorporating these corrections.

Finally, claims 1-5 have been amended to avoid the objections to the claims, to avoid some of the rejections of the claims under §112, second paragraph, to eliminate reference numerals, for clarity, and to place the claims in more conventional U.S. format. No amendments were made in view of the cited prior art.

In the Office Action the Examiner questioned the recitation in lines 6-7 of claim 1 to "an axially extending outer surface (64)" and to "two substantially radially extending end surfaces (68, 70)." With reference to Fig. 1, it can be seen that surface (64) of rubber-elastic element (60) extends in an axial direction and surfaces (68, 70) thereof in a radial direction with respect to axis (66). Thus the limitations are basically correct. For clarity they have now been amended to recite "an outer surface extending parallel to the axial direction" and "two end surfaces extending substantially radially to the axial direction."

Withdrawal of the rejections under §112, second paragraph is requested.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,305,699 to Konig and claims 2 and 3 under §103(a) for being obvious over Konig in view of Sprang et al.

It appears the Examiner's rejection based on Konig is based on the above misunderstanding of applicant's claim 1 because with reference to Fig. 2 of Konig, the Examiner maintains it shows a rubber-elastic element 33 having "an [a] radially

extending outer surface and two substantially axially extending end surfaces.”

However, as noted above, applicant’s rubber-elastic element (60) has an axially extending outer surface (64) and two substantially radially extending end surfaces (68, 70). Thus it is not understood how the Examiner is applying the structure of Konig’s device to applicant’s claims.

In any event, Konig does not disclose a coupling comprising two cup-shaped abutment members (82, 84), each having a tubular wall portion (86, 88) and a bottom portion (90, 92), wherein an inside wall (102, 104) of each bottom portion (90, 92) is arranged to abut against an end surface (68, 70) of the rubber-elastic element (60) for compression thereof in an axial direction as set forth in claim 1.

This is not shown in Fig. 2 of Konig. Here, the bottom portions, if any, of the comparable cup-shaped abutment members (the ends of supports 11, 12) do not abut against end surfaces of the rubber sleeve 33. Thus there is no axial compression thereof.

With respect to Fig. 3 of Konig, here a cylindrical elastomer body (43) is surrounded by a cylindrical block (41). However, neither block (41) nor the two supports (11, 12) apply any axial compression to the body (43).

Accordingly, it is submitted that neither claim 1 nor claims 4 and 5 dependent therefrom can be considered to be anticipated by Konig. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection under §102(b) is therefore requested.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, these claims depend from claim 1, so they should be patentable over the cited combination of references for the same reasons. Moreover, Sprang may show an annular disc 4, 5 in a coupling, but the disc is not between each

bottom portion (90, 92) of a cup-shaped member (82, 84) and each end surface (68, 70) of a rubber-elastic element (60) as set forth in claim 2.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 2 and 3 cannot be considered obvious over Konig in view of Sprang.

It is believed claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 13, 2006

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Attachments: **Replacement Abstract**
 Replacement Sheet(s) - one sheet - Figs. 1 & 2
 [Annotated Sheet(s) showing changes - one sheet - Figs. 1 & 2]

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

1/4

Fig. 1

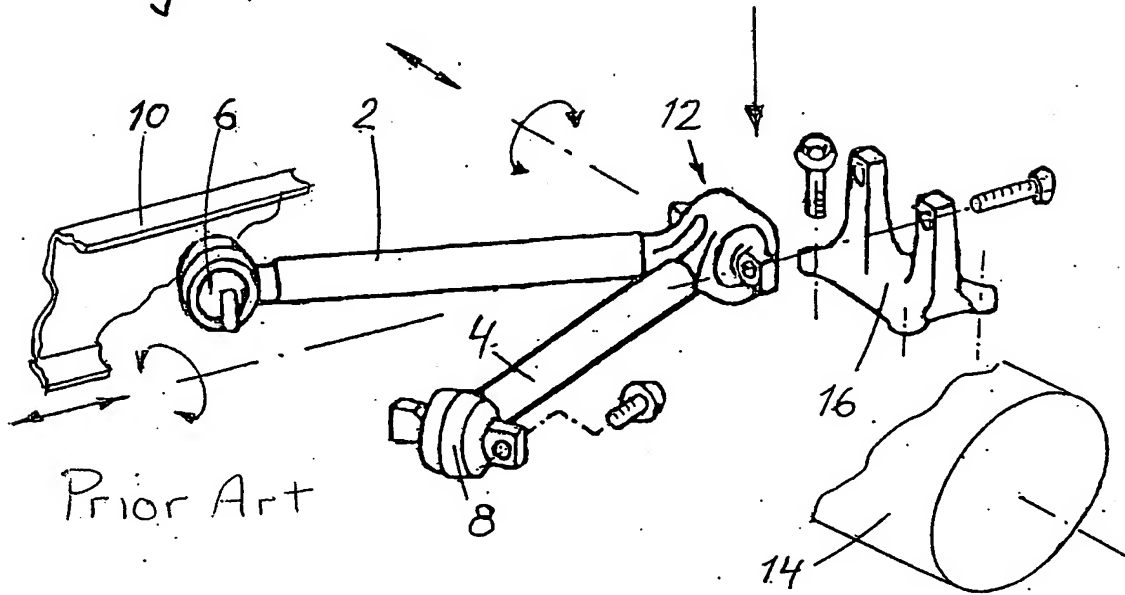
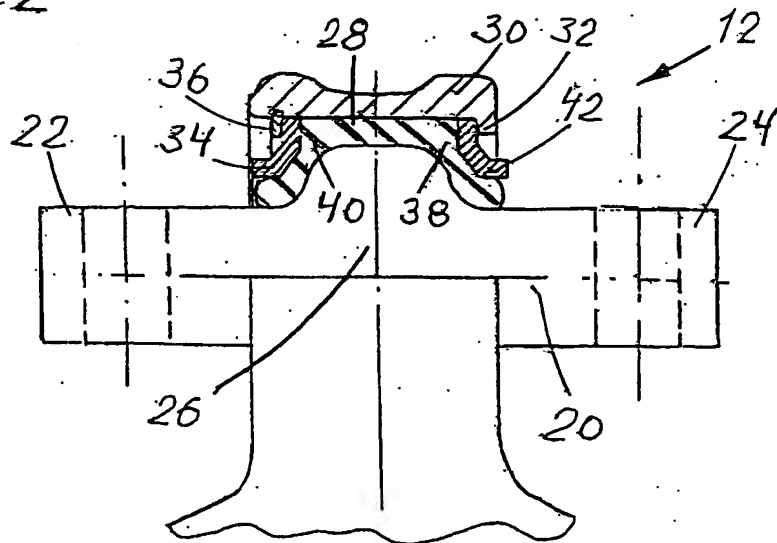


Fig. 2



Prior Art